

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)
FOR SYPHILIS ELIMINATION ACTIVITIES

INTRODUCTION

The Texas Department of Health (TDH) requests proposals from community based organizations (CBOs) in the Houston metropolitan area that serve Men Who Have Sex With Men (MSM) of all racial and ethnic groups, to conduct a needs assessment and provide outreach, screening and health promotion services to MSM who frequent anonymous sex venues. The awardee must be or become an active member of the Houston Syphilis Elimination Community Coalition and work collaboratively with the TDH, the Houston Department of Health and Human Services and other members of the community coalition. Project proposals will be reviewed and one award will be made on a competitive basis.

PURPOSE

The specific purposes of community involvement in Syphilis Elimination are to:

- acknowledge and respond to the effects of racial inequities, poverty, and social issues relevant to the persistence of syphilis in the United States;
- develop and maintain partnerships to increase the availability of and accessibility to quality preventive and care services;
- assure that affected communities are collaborative partners in developing, delivering, and evaluating syphilis elimination interventions.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Eligible entities include CBOs located within the Houston area that serve MSM of all racial and ethnic groups. Eligible organizations are defined as those that have (1) a significant number of individuals from the affected community in service provision positions, and (2) an established record of service to the affected community. If the organization is a local affiliate of a larger

organization with a national board, the larger organization must meet the same requirements listed above. Individuals are not eligible to apply. Applicants must have experience and/or expertise in working with the target population. Entities that have had state or federal contracts terminated within the last 24 months for deficiencies in fiscal or programmatic performance are not eligible to apply. Applicants must provide historical evidence of fiscal and administrative responsibility.

AVAILABLE FUNDS

Award of these funds is contingent upon annual federal grant awards to the TDH from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This announcement is made prior to the award of these funds to allow applicants sufficient time to respond by the application due date. Award of these funds is contingent upon satisfactory completion of the grant application and the negotiation process. The projected amount available for project activities is approximately \$64,317 for each of Calendar Year 2002 and Calendar Year 2003. The TDH expects to fund one project for the project period May 1, 2002, through December 31, 2003.

DEADLINE

Applications must be received by the Manager, Grants and Contracts Branch, HIV/STD Health Resources Division, Texas Department of Health, 2115 Kramer Lane, Austin, Texas 78758, on or before 5:00 p.m., February 11, 2002. No facsimiles will be accepted.

FOR INFORMATION

For a copy of the RFP, contact Ms. Laura Ramos, HIV/STD Health Resources Division, at 512/490-2525 or by email at laura.ramos@tdh.state.tx.us. Refer to RFP number 0028. No copies of the RFP will be released prior to December 10, 2001. The RFP will also be available through the Bureau of HIV and STD Prevention website at www.tdh.state.tx.us/hivstd/grants/default.htm on or after December 10, 2001.